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No. 96







BULLETIN
OF THE
Newport Historical Society

Number ninety-six

NEWPORT, R. I.

January, 1936

A TRIP ACROSS THE BAY

By

ANNA WHARTON MORRIS

**SOME EARLY SCHOOLS AND
SCHOOLMASTERS OF NEWPORT**

By

RUTH B. FRANKLIN

1936

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A TRIP ACROSS THE BAY

By Anna Wharton Morris

Read before the Society, August 19, 1935

What is across the bay from Newport? Nowadays, anyone will immediately say "Jamestown."

But in those days which I am trying to recall, we would have answered "Conanicut!" Because to us, Jamestown was a very insignificant part of an alluring wild island, holding limitless possibilities of adventure. But why should my father, Joseph Wharton, have moved from the comforts of Newport to the wild island of Conanicut? Perhaps I had better first explain why he moved each summer from Philadelphia to Newport.

This is easy to understand, for Newport had been the home of many of his ancestors, including old Jeremy Clarke, one of the Founders of Newport, and Walter Clarke a governor of the state. And the reason my father settled in Washington St., was the very good reason that his beloved sister, Mrs. Benjamin R. Smith, lived there with her family, in the historic Robinson dwelling. I don't know the date of Father's introduction to Newport, but I have very good reasons for believing that my baby-self was first brought here in 1869, with my parents and two elder sisters.

For the most of this narrative, I must depend upon memory. And my earliest memory is of an exciting cab-drive along old Thames St., from the wharf of the steamboat General (or its predecessor) to Washington St.

The train journey from Philadelphia to New York, with the other from New York to Wickford Junction, made a long, long day. We used to arrive at 8 p.m. standard time, when the lights were lit on each side of narrow Thames St. I recollect my sense of wonder at landing from the boat in my sleepy state, and being driven between rows of darling little stores, made magical by gas light.

What a consummation it was, to reach the hospitable white doorway of the Misses Wilbur, and to ascend their

broad steps! Memory still brings clearly to mind the ever-kindly faces of Miss Mary and Miss Hannah Wilbur,—also the peculiar smell of their halls, combining soap, matting and salt-fog;—also the charm of their neat little garden, full of sweet-peas; and the porch with such a convenient railing for children to jump from!

We used to occupy the whole front of the second floor; my parents in one large corner chamber, my sisters in the other, and my small self in the tiny hall-bedroom between. Here I was gloriously independent, able to read my Longfellow's poems in privacy, and to secrete little crabs in a tin can until their outrageous odor became unbearable.

Life at Miss Wilbur's ran along like a calm untroubled stream. After breakfast, Miss Amy Wilbur, the old Quaker aunt, read a chapter of the Bible to all assembled in the plain parlor. And in that same parlor, our beloved Miss Hannah taught me to play a fascinating solitaire, with marbles on a round wooden board. Miss Hannah should have been a mother, for her chubby and cheery face always smiled a welcome to shy little girls. I remember our meals as simple and wholesome, with a supper usually consisting of fish and berries. What I loved most, was the small drop-cakes, three in a plate at each end of the table. Never more than three, and I never got enough!

We found our house companions uniformly congenial, a pleasant blending of Harvard professors and German-town Quakers. Two fellow-boarders of my own age, were the motherless daughters of General Armstrong, who founded Hampton Institute.

There was no public pier in those days, but nearly every family had its own pier; the Wilburs, Storers, Copes, Smiths, Shipleys, and so on up the street. In the Shipley house,—low, white and snuggled,—lived a Quaker lady who was a Washington St. character, Catherine Shipley. I remember one of the many stories which were affectionately told about her. Hearing that a local policeman was obliged to walk his beat during part of the night, her kindly soul conceived the idea that his labors deserved a cup of coffee. So she asked him one day, "What time of night does thee pass our house?" And when he answered, "At three o'clk. in the night," she announced firmly, "*I'll* be waiting for thee."

Then there was the very large family of Dr. Child, and

there were the talented Fairchilds. We used to call them the Children and Fairchildren. Then the Bigelows, whose remarkably beautiful daughter Annie was a strong rower and later married the famous architect, Charles McKim.

Robert Louis Stephenson spent a summer at the Fairchilds'. He meant nothing in my young life, but I recall the romantic thrill which ran through Washington St., due to the presence of this distinguished invalid.

One landmark was old Fort Green, and another the Blue Rocks. This last was undoubtedly the favorite resort of nursemaids caring for small children, as here they were regaled by the sight of mysterious baptisms off the rocks.

Further north stood Mr. Edward Mayer's substantial house, beyond which Washington St. ended abruptly in a white fence. And beyond this fence, was the imposing Maitland house, shaded by handsome trees. Near Maitlands, there stood a lonely grave, said to be the grave of that Quakeress hanged in Boston, Mary Dyer. However that may be, it is a fact that her husband lived in Newport and that he owned a small island in the upper bay which is still called Dyers Island.

Naturally, we three girls played most with our five Smith cousins. Dear little Debsie, who was near my age, died here when only eight years, and was buried in the Newport cemetery. So also was her oldest brother, later drowned off Brenton's Reef. My uncle and aunt Smith welcomed relatives and friends in a spirit of the most generous hospitality. We children had the freedom of their bath-houses and their pier, and even dared to play on the dignified Captain's Walk of their roof.

My grandmother, Deborah Fisher Wharton, summered with this one of her ten children. I can plainly see the revered old lady sitting in her special corner of the back room, with its wonderful ancient fireplace. Clothed in Quaker cap and folded shawl, she sat upright in a straight-backed chair, believing rockers to be too luxurious for virtue. She always kept her small closed carriage and her colored coachman William, and we granddaughters took turns accompanying her on her afternoon drives. Occasionally, she would stop on the Avenue and buy us pretty things from Mr. Bozyan. This was the more appreciated, as she never gave presents at Christmas or birthdays, hav-

ing some scruple against anniversaries. She used to preach sometimes in the old Friends' meeting on Malborough St., (which we all attended), standing very quietly with her hands resting on the unpainted rail before her. She lived to be almost ninety-three, and died at her daughter's on Washington St., Newport,—not far from the old home of her mother Hannah Rodman, which still stands at 2nd and Walnut.

Father kept his rowboat tied to Smiths' pier. Nearly every morning, he would fill it with his own and his sister's children; sometimes adding my little cousin Harry Wharton from opposite, who usually hung around hoping for an invitation. With this heavy load, Father would row us over to Rose Island for canary-colored shells, or up past Poorhouse Island to Bishop's Rock for starfish. After which, we would be eager for our daily swim.

Sailing was a matter of course, to those living behind the breakwater of Goat Island. My sisters and older cousins made up merry parties to sail in the moonlight, and to sing as they sailed. And some blissful days, my aunt took afternoon parties to Conanicut Island, where they built a fire and picniced on the solitary shore. Father bought himself a stout catboat, naming it appropriately "The Three Sisters" And he engaged old Captain Albro's eldest son, Josiah or Si, to sail it. Si was very popular among the maids of Washington St., but (as it was then expressed) "the Auchincloss girl got him". This turned out to be a fortunate thing for our family, as the young couple later came to live on our new place; and the "Auchincloss girl", otherwise Lucy Albro, proved to be one of those staunch and faithful souls who form the backbone of the country.

I must not forget to mention the two stores on the Point, which, though not conspicuous, held irresistible charm for youth. One was the ice-cream parlor of S. E. Westall, affectionately known as "Joe's". His ice-cream surpassed any other ice-cream, and it was said that Mr. Paul of Philadelphia had originally provided the receipt. The son of this S. E. Westall is at present making Jamestownians happy with the same brand of delicacy. The second store was Gladding's grocery, at the corner of Washington and Bridge Sts. Here we bought heavenly slabs of gingerbread, to eat

on the spot or to carry to our picnics. We children had a song about this storekeeper, which I cannot at all explain. We used to sing it, while skipping along under the stately elms.

“Mr. Joe Gladding he married his niece,
Mr. Joe Gladding he married his niece.
And Mrs. Joe Gladding sells apples a cent apiece.”

All these things seem far removed from the frivolous life of the ocean-front villas. But once in a while, Washington St. would be startled out of its habitual quiet by a tremendous clattering, and a four-in-hand coach would draw up at Miss Wilburs' respectable door. This was driven by my mother's cousin, Fairman Rogers, who had a house behind the Avenue, as well as a steam-yacht the *Magnolia*. Though my parents preferred their own modest carriage, brought from Philadelphia, they did occasionally consent to climb up on the alarmingly high seats of the Rogers' coach. We children would watch in astonishment, until another great clattering and plunging drew them from our sight.

One vivid ghost of times that are gone is the old Ocean House on Bellevue Avenue. When my Lovering grandfather paid rare visits to Newport, he stopped at the Ocean House. Also my father's business-associate and friend, Hermann Krupp, of the great German armament firm of Krupps, brought his handsome daughter Bertha to board there. So visits were exchanged. I have not forgotten the solemn grandeur of the hotel, with its long high-roofed porches; I have not forgotten the sad day it burned, and I regret that it has never been replaced.

However, it was the Wilbur house which claimed our deepest affection, and the dear Misses Wilbur. Therefore we were distressed when they sold their property to the Colonial Steamship Co. We boarded then at the Shore Cottage across the street; next to Mrs. Kendall, whose sons used to lounge on her piazza, resting their long legs upon the front rail.

I remember dim figures of some of my father's scientific associates; especially professor Gibbs and professor Cooke of Gibbs Ave., and professor Pompelli. Also Alexander Agassiz on the Ocean Drive, whose laboratory we used

to explore. William T. Richards, the artist on Arnold St., was an old-time friend of Father's. And Mr. Richards decided to build himself a house on Conanicut Island. Father, who had previously considered purchasing that beautiful harbor-site where Marion Eppley now lives, accompanied his friend Richards to inspect the new purchase across the bay. Father was so completely captivated by the location, that he decided to buy the shore all the way from Mr. Richards' place to Mackerel Cove. This was a courageous venture, consummated in 1882.

Then Father planned his large house, standing due north and south, looking out to sea and to Brenton's Reef lightship. He engaged J. D. Johnston of Newport as builder. Joseph Mayer had the contract for painting and decorating; and his men used to sail over every day in Tom Shea's yawl, landing at the Dumplings and walking to our place. They always carried sticks, with which to kill the snakes as they walked through the fields. They worked from 7 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., but sometimes when there was a calm they would not reach Newport before nine or ten at night. One of these workmen, James B. Edward, still lives in Newport.

In 1884, the house neared completion, so Father thought he had better move in, to hurry the workmen in moving out. Our maids arrived from Philadelphia. And when we were ready to leave Washington St., the excitement was intense. We set sail one August day, in the cat-boat "Three Sisters"—family, maids and baggage, under the efficient guidance of Si Albro.

We sailed out past the old Goat Island Light, past Fort Dumpling, past Mr. Richards', around Horsehead cliff into Mackerel Cove, into our own cove, and tied up at our own pier. This cove was safe from rocks, as Father had employed a diver to go down in his diving-suit to clear the bottom. I seem to remember that our steps were unfinished, and that the party of pioneers had a good deal of trouble in getting themselves from the boat up on the pier,—especially the Irish cook.

Then what a climb to the house on its high cliff! Over rocks, up slopes, through brambles and thickets with their snakes and stickers, we and our baggage made a triumphant ascent to our new abode. It loomed very large to our

admiring eyes. My father believed in building spaciouly and solidly, and in being as far as possible self-sustaining within one's own walls. He had the salute "Pax vobiscum" set into the front door-step. Our hall was wide, the rooms were generously large; and the house was topped by a shingled tower, from which we could look out to Block Island or up to Wickford, and scan Newport or Narragansett Pier to east or west.

When we moved in, the big dining-room was still full of scaffolding, so we started housekeeping by eating our meals in the broad basement kitchen. The house was built among rocks, and was surrounded by a jungle of wild berries,—straw, black, blue, dew, bay, and raspberries; while beyond our private ground lay rocky farmland, cropped close by sheep. The maids said it reminded them of Ireland. Father soon got a vegetable garden started, by hiring a team of oxen to plough up the big rocks. A fine spring supplied us with pure water.

As our stable was yet in process of building, we were without horses that first year, but we did not miss them. Being ex-Newporters who had achieved paradise on Conanicut Is., we felt no kinship to Jamestown and no need to go there. In fact, I only remember going there once that summer,—afoot of course,—along a cart-track by Mackerel Cove, deep in ruts and with fences to climb. We did not mind walking, and used to enjoy tramping to Beavertail and back. The Beavertail road was barred by nine gates, and at one point it went right through a private barnyard.

We went to Newport for our mail and for our food, bringing these home in the Three Sisters. Thus we were dependent upon weather conditions, and in case of a three-day storm we went without mail or fresh provisions. My mother was obliged to keep the house supplied, therefore, with groceries in quantities,—flour and sugar in barrels, preserves in wooden buckets, and plenty of hardtack.

It was my father's habit to sail to Newport each afternoon. Going first to the old post office, he would collect his mail and answer much of it on the spot, standing at the public desk. We waited patiently for him to finish, knowing that we would then go on to Washington St., to see our dear Smith cousins. And by the time we started homeward, the fickle wind might be dying; so that often we

lay motionless in sight of our own house. We consoled ourselves by singing every song we knew,—but my poor mother waved sadly from the cliff, bewailing an over-cooked corn-pudding. Our evenings were gay with singing and games under the oil lamps.

House-guests travelled by the Fall River boat, at which they were met, or to which they were taken by Si Albro. If there was no wind, the Three Sisters was helpless. But Si Albro was not helpless. For I recall one windless night, when Mr. George de Benneville Keim of Philadelphia was obliged to reach the Sound Boat, and Si rowed him all the three miles to Long Wharf in Newport. Present-day youngsters, with their speed boats and speed mania, may look with horror upon such a water-trip; yet those slower methods held genuine romance, a romance scarcely known to the reign of gasoline.

Another touch of primitive charm was the immense bonfire we used to light, as a signal of esteem to a parting guest. We piled boards and barrels, which were left over from our building operation, on a high plateau, safely distant from the house, and had it ready to light when the Sound Boat should round Goat Island. On windy nights, we wasted many a box of matches, but always managed to produce a big blaze in time for the boat to whistle acknowledgement. Nights when Father himself had to go to Philadelphia for business, he would stand on the stern deck and cover the stern light three times with his hat, as a personal and private salute to us, watching eagerly by our fire.

Surely the temperature was lower then than it is this year! We used to wear dresses of thick blue flannel, high-necked and long-sleeved, with high black button shoes. No sneakers had yet been invented; but I can testify that I learned to cling like a limpet to the outer face of cliffs overhanging the sea,—even in my high button shoes. My sisters were not included in this performance, because one had married and the other had fallen sick, so that I climbed alone.

We were superbly fortunate in our neighbors, the Richardses. Mr. Richards was always delicately delightful. He painted some of his best marines either of our shore or on our shore, often sitting down in one of our gullies, to paint the surf in action. Mrs. Richards (author of "The

New Alice in Wonderland" etc.) was always stimulating. She lent me George Moore, and taught me to make French candy. The three younger children were near my own age; Theodore, Anna and Herbert. Theodore instructed us in the strange game of golf; which he had learned to play abroad, from Lord Balfour, and which we played on a home-made golf-course behind their house. I have in my possession a portrait painted by Anna Richards, of my father seated under an arch of our piazza.

New cottages popped up on the Dumplings, like so many mushrooms. Some of these held my own relatives, and all seemed to hold young people and to possess private tennis courts. By this time, we had of course grown to appreciate Jamestown and its ferries,—much as we have since grown to appreciate the blessings of telephones, electric lights and automobiles.

Well, my father having a fondness for picnics, decided to give one in his own home. So in September, when my mother and sisters had gone to Philadelphia, Father and I invited about fifty people to spend the day at Horsehead. Young and old came at ten and stayed till after five. All guests were given free use of the resources of house, rocks and harbor,—and were expected to do exactly as they liked.

Some sat inside playing the piano, some sat outside playing the guitar or banjo; some sat in rocking chairs, some on the grass; while some went on a climbing tour, proudly led by father carrying his big stick. Some played tennis or quoits, some rowed; and a fine party of young folks went swimming off our pier, diving or jumping from its rail. And whatever we did, we sang in doing it. Father especially loved to sing, in or outdoors.

At mid-day, enormous appetites were ready for the home-made food, piled high on our big table. Each picnicker chose what he wished, and took it where he wished. I recollect four delightful aunts seated in a row on a bow window-seat in the diningroom,—a sister and a sister-in-law of Father's, a sister and a sister-in-law of Mother's. They were unusual aunts, whose charm we shall ever cherish. I can also visualize merry groups of young men and girls, seated along the piazza, with great hunks of luscious watermelon in their hands.

A long, lovely afternoon followed, its blue waves and bluer sky making an idyl for memory to hold.

This picnic served to unite our friends from both sides of the water. And we still continue to unite them, and to remain loyal to both our summer homes.

Today, I am living in the old Horsehead house; while my sister, Mrs. Lippincott, lives in an adjoining new house. And, though always loving Newport, we have never regretted our trip across the bay.

ANNA WHARTON MORRIS.



SOME EARLY SCHOOLS AND SCHOOLMASTERS OF NEWPORT

By Ruth B. Franklin

Read before the Society, November 18, 1935

The source material for this paper has been found in old town records, files of old newspapers (especially the Newport Mercury), and scattered articles giving personal reminiscences and selections from old diaries.

The early settlers of this island were men of education as well as of deep religious feeling and their first care was to provide for public worship and for the education of their children—"to provide methods by which their youth should be enlightened and enabled to profit by the knowledge and wisdom of past generations". "They did not wish their children", says Rev. Edward Peterson in his history of Rhode Island, "to grow up like the 'wild ass's colt' without moral culture and to pay no deference and respect to their superiors in age and in knowledge."

Steps were immediately taken to establish schools and assignments of land were made to aid in their support. The early town records of Newport up to 1679 have been destroyed but after that date there are entries which enable us to reconstruct in some measure the history of the town controlled schools up to 1825 when the system of free public schools was instituted. These early records show how persistently the colonists labored "to support and advance the schools, carefully selecting the schoolmasters and encouraging them to perseverance by appropriating lands for their support". Year after year we read of the appointment of committees to let out school house lands and make up the the accounts with the schoolmasters for the last year's agreement, and it is reasonable to infer that schools were kept during the colonial period with a fair degree of regularity.

The earliest school of record is that kept by Robert Lenthal. Lenthal was a clergyman of the Church of England, who left his charge at Weymouth, Mass. and sought Rhode

Island because of religious controversies with the ministers in Massachusetts. He was admitted a freeman of the town of Newport in August 1640 and shortly after was called to keep a public school for the learning of youth. One hundred acres of land were granted to him and his heirs and four acres for a house lot, and one hundred acres more were appropriated for a school and for "encouragement of the poorer sort to train up their youth in learning," and Mr. Robert Lenthal "as long as he continues to teach is to have benefit of said land".

It is often said that this was the first free public school in America, but there is reliable evidence that in 1635 a Free Latin school was founded in Boston and in 1639 a school was opened in Dorchester. The Newport school was unquestionably among the first to be established by vote of a town and placed under town direction, but it was free only for the instruction to poor children. The text of the vote as recorded indicates that the grant of land was for the encouragement of the poor to provide education for their children. The land granted was mostly woodland and yielded a very small income. The conclusion is inevitable that while the vote of 1640 shows unusual attention to education very early in the history of the colony, the school established was not a free public school in the modern sense, since individuals of sufficient means were expected to contribute a small sum for each child. Town aid was given to benefit children whose parents were unable to pay—children of "poore bodies", as they were called—and the master was obliged to teach free any orphans the town might send to him. Lenthal remained only two or three years as in 1642 he is reported as "gone for England".

Little is known of Lenthal's immediate successors. We find on record the names of Mr. Lodovick (the Christian name is lacking) as teacher in 1685 and of John Yelthro or Jethro in 1697. One Thomas Fox in 1701 petitioned "that he may be free from watching and training while he performs that service he hath taken, to learning children to read and write," and his petition was granted.

The teachers generally received half the product of the school lands while they continued to teach, but in 1709 William Gilbert received in addition to the benefit of the school land "some conveniency for keeping of fire in the

winter season". These early teachers were chosen by committees appointed at the Quarter meetings of the town, who were directed to produce a schoolmaster "to teach the arts of riting and Arithmetick". It is not until 1746 that the name of the schoolmaster appears on the list of town officers. The Rev. John Callender, pastor of the First Baptist Church, was the first to be elected in full town meeting. Two years later he was succeeded by Terrence Donally. Peleg Bryer in 1776 was the last of the colonial schoolmasters.

John Sims, the town schoolmaster in 1759, advertised to open a separate school in June of that year "to continue the summer season, beginning at half after six o'clock and concluding at eight, and in the afternoon (each day except Thursday and Saturday) from five till half after six, for the instruction of young ladies in writing and arithmetic." He claimed to teach Arithmetic "both vulgar and decimal" and "to study the genius of his scholars, whether of exalted or inferior capacities, and conduct himself accordingly".

The school lands to which reference has been made were at first in the north part of the town, in what is now Middletown, but in 1661 they were exchanged for twelve acres in the compact part of the town. In 1697 further grants were made and in 1702 the common land was divided and twelve acres lying not far from Vaughan's pond, extending from Tanner street to or through Warner, and from Callender avenue to a point somewhat south of Gould street, were set aside as school lands. In 1763 the income from the land was "noways sufficient to answer ye useful purpose to which it was first appropriated", and it was ordered that the land be laid out in house lots, to be sold or leased under a system of quit rent and the income therefrom to be known as the "fund for the schooling and educating of poor children".

A school house was probably built at an early date, as in 1682 it is recorded that "the old school house is falling into decay." By 1700 the school house must have been in ruins as in that year permission was given to Ebenezer Mann to use "the lumber that has fallen down about the School house" to help in building his own house, and to take the stone about the building to construct a chimney.

The location of this first school house is not definitely

known. A map of 1712 shows the present Caleb Earle street as "Schoolhouse Lane", and this may well be the site of the early building. It was near the head of Broad street, which was an important part of the town where the pound and the hay scales were located. On the other hand, the name may indicate nothing more than the road from Broad street to the school lands. In 1705 it was voted to build a new school house "at the place left for a market place". Six acres of land were to be sold and the money used for building. In addition a tax of £150 was assessed from which the "wood's people," that is those living in what is now Middletown, were exempt, as they were too far away to send their children. A lot of land 50 by 60 feet was set aside on the north side of Ann, now Touro street. This gives the probable site of the building on the Mall, near Commodore Perry's statue. The next year the law was repealed, and the land was granted to Samuel Cranston and other private individuals "for erecting a school house for the benefit of said contributors and others in the town for schooling their children," the land to be held only as long as used for the school. Two years later, however, the subscribers surrendered their rights to the town and lots were sold for the money to finish the building.

There is, as far as I can learn, no picture of this "Publick Town School" or "Great School House that stood on the Mall". The building evidently had a belfry, as in 1739 a committee appointed "to complete the furnishings of the school house" was authorized to "lower the belfry if they think proper". In addition to the main school room there were two "little rooms" and a basement, which might be rented by the master for his own benefit. In this cellar the R. I. Gazette was first printed by James Franklin in 1732 and many papers and pamphlets were issued from "the printing office under the town school house". The two little rooms were rented in 1710 to Mr. Galloway to teach a Latin School. This school house was burned in 1774 and was not rebuilt, and for fifty years no school was supported from the income of the school lands.

During this period, that is the Revolutionary war and the years following down through the first quarter of the nineteenth century, private schools provided the only opportunity for education. At one time 43 such schools, with

more than a thousand pupils, could be found in Newport. Many families from the South, attracted by the excellence of the schools, took up their residence in Newport to educate their sons. There were primary schools for small children, grammar schools for boys, boarding schools for misses, and schools for instruction in dancing, painting, and music. The announcements of these schools found in old copies of the Newport Mercury tell us the studies offered and the tuition fees charged, but for any information about the general conduct of the schools, the methods of teaching, and the personality of the teachers we have to depend upon the occasional references in the letters and old diaries that are left to us.

One of the very earliest private schools was a classical school conducted by Edward Scott, a Scotchman, a great uncle of Sir Walter Scott. Little is known of his life except that he was one of the founders of the Literary and Philosophical Society, 1730, and later a Librarian and Director of the Redwood Library which was the outgrowth of that Society. He was also a Vestryman and a Warden of Trinity Church. From his signature, reproduced in Mason's "Annals of the Redwood Library" and in the same author's "Annals of Trinity Church", a handwriting expert would probably deduce a man of dignity and force of character. For twenty years he was head of the first classical school in Rhode Island.

Mr. Robert Rogers was another early schoolmaster. He was a graduate of Brown University, 1775, and served as a Lieutenant in a R. I. regiment in the Revolutionary war. After the war he returned to Newport and opened a school on Clarke street in the rear of the present Artillery Armory. Mr. Rogers, called "Bobbie" by his pupils, was a man of dignified and austere manner. He always dressed in small clothes and wore buckled shoes. His school was very popular and maintained a high standard. Several boys from well known southern families, whom the local boys always spoke of as "foreigners," were among his students. In 1786 a committee for superintending the Academy in which Mr. Rogers was principal held an examination of the scholars, and in the columns of the Newport Mercury of May 8 expressed to the parents their approbation of Mr. Rogers's "abilities, assiduity, and mode of teaching". "They

found the pupils in general advancing in Literature much beyond their expectation and were happy to find that the Purity of their morals and the Propriety of their manners were no less the objects of the Principal's attention." Mr. Rogers's portrait, painted by Washington Allston, a former pupil, is in the Redwood Library, of which he was for twenty years Secretary, Treasurer, and Librarian.

The classical school of Mr. John Fraser, often called the Fraser Academy, was on Church Lane, probably on the property on Church street formerly owned by Mr. Augustus Greene. The opening of the school was announced in the Newport Mercury, Tuesday, March 22, 1796. "Those parents who wish to have their children instructed in the Latin and Greek Languages are respectfully informed that J. Fraser intends to open a class for that purpose on the first day of April next; and he begs leave to assure them that his utmost endeavor will be used for promoting the knowledge of those who may be intrusted to his care. If he meets with that encouragement which he flatters himself his intimate acquaintance with those Languages intitle him to expect, he purposes beginning a class on the first day of April in each succeeding year while he continues in the Line of teaching". Fraser, like Scott, was a Scotchman and was a graduate of the University of Edinburgh. He was a particularly able teacher in Latin, Greek, and Mathematics, and for thirty years sent out many scholars celebrated for the extent and accuracy of their classical and mathematical attainments. The reading of the Newport Mercury was a daily exercise in the school and, in the opinion of a former pupil, was one of the most agreeable lessons of the day, "when the rare instances of editorial remarks were of the briefest character and not much above the comprehension of even the smaller boys". At his death in 1821 an obituary notice characterized him as a "man of science and integrity, reflecting honor on that literary nation, Scotland, which gave him birth".

Even in these early days some schools turned aside from the Classics and gave more attention to a commercial training. Thomas Greene, 1766, in Bannister's Row, taught "reading, writing, arithmetic, and merchants' accounts—the Italian method". The announcement of his school states that "as he don't incline to undertake for more than

twenty (besides a very few small readers), they that favor him scholars may depend on their being taught with the greatest alacrity." Mr. Greene evidently combined teaching with shop keeping, as in the same notice he advertised "an assortment of English goods etc. at a reasonable rate." His dry goods shop was at the sign of the Roe-Buck, near Carr's ferry, probably about the present location of Eddy's market on Thames street.

Thomas Peckham, 1789, called attention to his teaching of grammar and bookkeeping by double entry. "To be acquainted with the rules of grammar", he declared, "is an accomplishment so easily acquired if seasonably and judiciously taught, so convenient to all who have occasion to write and yet often not found in those who by their abilities and the time they spent at school are well entitled to it". His method of teaching Bookkeeping he describes as so "plain and easy that a lad of ingenuity and application in three months may be acquainted with the Principles of that useful and artificial scheme". A few years later William Engs, on the Point, was advertising to teach Writing, Arithmetic, Navigation, Bookkeeping, Mensuration, Guaging, etc. There is in the possession of the Redwood Library an old ledger—the school book of John Coit, July 1, 1784—which gives an interesting light on school finances. The book is ruled in five columns with the headings—"Names of the scholars, Time of commencing, At what a month, Deduction for being sick etc., Amount paid (given in £-s-d)". In the list of boys and girls we find names of many old Newport families—Gould, Nicols, Stevens, Townsend, etc. The charges were 4 shillings regularly and 2 shillings, 8 pence for half the day. In 1796 this was raised to five shillings. There is an occasional entry "for nothing". Cash payments were rare; usually payment was made in work or goods—milk, cheese, sugar, rum, shoes, sundries. The last entry in the book is in 1803. This was probably a primary school as the names of boys and girls are included and the tuition fee was small.

Primary schools of this kind were numerous. They were usually kept by spinsters in their own homes. In these so called "Dame schools" little was taught beyond the three R's and needlework. Mr. George Channing in his "Early Recollections of Newport" describes the one which he at-

tended when a boy five or six years old. The school was kept by Mrs. Sayre and her daughter, Miss Betsey, in a house near the corner of Mary and Clarke streets. The school room was a low, square room on the second floor, having no furniture, no desks, nor chairs, except a few for teachers or visitors. The children, boys and girls alike, were dressed in frocks or "slips" of figured calico. Their parents provided for them seats made of round blocks of wood of various heights. The pupils delighted in moving around on these blocks and in indulging in what Mr. Channing called "block gyrations", not exactly on a pivot but in larger or smaller circles. They usually seized the moment when the mistress was busily engaged in hearing the spelling of some small child pinned to her apron or in preparing sewing for the girls or garter-knitting for the boys. The commotion caused by this movement of some thirty children aroused the teacher's attention and she would raise her poplar wand and shout syllable by syllable "*Mirabile Dictu*". The Latin was meaningless to the children but had the desired effect of quieting the tumult. For punishment the disobedient were sent to the "dark closet". At the close of the school on Friday afternoon the scholars went to a large vacant room downstairs, where they recited the Ten Commandments and repeated the Lord's Prayer. Then they were commended or censured according to their conduct during the week. Mr. Channing says that Mrs. Sayre's instruction in reading and spelling was excellent and gave him a fine preparation for a higher school.

For girls beyond the primary stage there were some special schools. In 1744 Madam Osborn, an Englishwoman, for fifteen years a resident of Newport, opened a school which she conducted for thirty years, until failing eyesight and bodily infirmities compelled her to retire. The school was on Church street on the site of the Osborn property owned by the Congregational Church. Her diaries, which were used by Dr. Samuel Hopkins in his "*Memoirs of Mrs. Osborn*", are devoted almost exclusively to her religious experiences and to the progress of the "female religious society for prayer and Christian intercourse" which she founded in the Congregational Church, and contain few references to her school. One announcement of Sarah Osborn, Schoolmistress, states that in her school instruction

is given in Reading, Writing, Plain work, Embroidery, Tent stitch, Samplers, etc. on reasonable terms. The school had at one time more than seventy pupils and as eight or ten were boarders, it was necessary to employ assistants. Dr. Hopkins says that Mrs. Osborn was "amiable in her conversation and behavior, eminently pious and benevolent. Even the irreligious and profane had a degree of veneration for her as a remarkably good woman". He makes no comment on the school.

An even wider range of subjects was offered by the Miss Brentons in their "Boarding School for Misses", in 1796. The school was planned to accommodate a small number of scholars on moderate terms, and the program included Reading, Writing, and English Grammar, Tambour, Embroidery, all kinds of needlework, Millinery, Making gloves and mitts, making lace, Net work, and weaving fringes, Painting Shell work, Dancing, and playing the Guitar, with particular attention to morals and manners.

It was doubtless the influence of the French occupation that led, in the last years of the eighteenth century, to the opening of schools for the study of the French language and for instruction in the accomplishments, dancing—"a laudable amusement so necessary in society"—music, "drawing of flowers and the agreeable art of embroidery."

In 1789 William Andancourt taught the French language in Newport in the house (commonly called the White Stone) nearly opposite John G. Wanton's in Spring street. His school was opened five days in the week for both sexes for those "desirous of learning that polite and beneficial language". The terms were two dollars entrance and one dollar per month for each scholar who "is to subscribe for no less than three months." In addition to these day classes Mr. Andancourt had an evening class at his Coffee house, near the theatre at the entrance of the Long Wharf, and gave boarding and lodging for young gentlemen who wished to gain facility in speaking.

The leader of the Band of the Newport theatre, Mr. Leaumont, had a dancing school (1794) and also agreed "to teach every instrument in so short a time that the learner will be astonished". A foot note explanatory of "every instrument" reads "principally the Piano Forte". Other dancing schools were those of Mr. Alliez, who kept a sub-

scription list at the house of Mr. Rogers, Schoolmaster, Mr. Turner, and John C. Devero at Mrs. Penrose's Assembly Rooms.

In April 1772 we find mention of an evening school in the Presbyterian school house for instruction in the elements of Stenography or Short hand, agreeable to Mr. Wheaton's approved plan, "by the help of which sermons, speeches at the bar or in the Senate may with care be taken down in a very small compass". Other subjects taught were Writing, Arithmetic, Navigation, Surveying, Reading and Speaking with propriety, "too much neglected in the common mode of education".

Schools for poor children, often called charity schools, were conducted under church auspices. In 1726 Mr. James Blacklock, on the east side of Clarke street, had a school under the Trustees of the two Congregational churches, which had the right to send free pupils.

In 1734 the Church School was established by Trinity Church on the site of the present Shiloh Baptist Church on Mary and School streets. This was made possible by a bequest of Mr. Nathaniel Kay, Collector of the King's Custom's in Newport, who gave to Trinity Church the land and £400 to establish a school, on condition that it teach ten poor boys their "grammar and mathematics gratis". In early days the masters were the Rectors of the Church. Later Mr. Metcalfe Brown, one of the lay teachers, an Englishman, introduced the Lancasterian or monitorial system of instruction. The school lasted, with varying fortune, until the Revolution.

There was also a free school for blacks, (1773) taught by Mary Brett, wife of Dr. Brett, an eminent German physician, on High street. This was endowed by clergymen of the Church of England living in London for the purpose of instructing thirty negro children in reading and sewing.

One of the best known free schools of early times was the Long Wharf free school, under the direction of the Long Wharf trustees. In 1795 permission was given to thirty-six citizens as trustees to raise \$25,000 by a lottery to rebuild Long Wharf, which had been destroyed by the British in 1779, and also to build a hotel. All profits were to be used for building one or more free public schools. Simeon Potter, formerly of Newport but at the time of his

death a resident of Swansea, being in sympathy with this effort, gave to the trustees his property on the corner of Washington and Marsh streets. It was not, however, until October 1814 that the trustees opened a school for twenty-five small boys. The committee made a contract with Elizabeth Finch, wife of Capt. Joseph Finch, one of the tenants of the Potter house, to "school twenty-five boys," to teach them reading and spelling for the winter at \$1.50 per quarter. \$15 was to be deducted on account of house rent "each and every quarter while she shall continue said school and the balance to be paid at the expiration of each quarter." The records of the trustees show regular payments of \$22.50 according to agreement.

The committee promised to furnish the firewood and the books necessary for the pupils and guaranteed to keep the number of scholars up to twenty-five. The intention was to have boys from families who were unable to educate them and the scholars were selected from each ward in proportion to the number of voters. By a vote of the majority of the committee, however, they might be chosen from any part of the town. After Capt. Finch died, his wife had a school for small children of both sexes in lieu of payment of rent. The same privilege was extended to the Widow Dennis until 1832. Shortly after this, the Potter property was sold, the Long Wharf leased, and the money allowed to accumulate. Two school houses have been presented to the city by the trustees from the proceeds of the fund.

The agitation for providing public schools reached its climax in a public meeting of 1824. The next year by an act of the General Assembly Newport was authorized to raise a tax "for the education of the white children of the town who are not otherwise provided with the means of instruction". Appropriations were duly made and added to the proceeds from the sale of school land, and a school house 60 by 36 feet, of brick and stone, two stories high, was erected on Mill street at an expense of \$3,000. The school was opened in 1827 with 279 pupils, 217 of whom remained at the end of the first year. Boys under Mr. Guild occupied the upper floor and girls under Miss Goulding the lower. The school was conducted on the Lancasterian or monitorial system. It was not an absolutely free school;

there was a fixed rate of tuition—"For the alphabet, spelling and writing on slate, 25 cents per quarter; continuance of ditto with reading and arithmetical tables 50 cents per quarter; continuance of the last with writing on paper, arithmetic and definitions \$1; the preceding with grammar, geography, and the use of maps and globes, Book-keeping, etc. \$2; no additional charge for fuel, books, or stationery". The low cost of tuition was to encourage a feeling of independence in parents who wished to educate their children at their own expense, but who could not afford customary rates. It is said that many were debarred from entering on the ground of the alleged ability of their parents to pay tuition in the private schools. The school room had fourteen long desks, each seating fifteen. At one end opposite the teacher's platform and around the sides were the so called drafts, semi-circular and hinged to the wall, as was the monitor's seat, which was let down for use. The monitor was an advanced pupil who taught some lessons and gave extra lessons to those who were backward. The arithmetic lessons were taught by having the whole school recite the multiplication tables in concert. The boys who attended the Mill Street school were usually spoken of by those in private schools as "Free Pigs" or "Guild's Pigs".

Of the private schools and schoolmasters of the first part of the nineteenth century we have much fuller information, as we can refer to the diaries and the written reminiscences of old pupils.

Levi Tower, a graduate of Brown University in 1800, who was an assistant in Mr. Rogers's School, established himself in the same building after Mr. Rogers's retirement, and opened the Newport Academy in 1803. The school house was in the rear of the Artillery Armory—the present Armory site was the teacher's garden—and was a one story building on a high foundation. The entrance was at the north east corner, up a flight of six wooden steps. The school room proper had five windows on the west and a fireplace on the north. At the east was an addition for girls, separated from the main room by a partition. A pupil who was in the school for more than six years has left us some interesting reminiscences of his school days. The room was as cold as a barn—the only heat from a wood

stove—and illustrated all the climates of the globe. In close proximity to the stove, it was torrid; a few feet away, temperate; around the sides, frigid. Scholars were allowed to stand near the stove as long as they could manage to stand on one foot and hold the sole of the other up to it. Mr. Tower said—"If you are cold you can do it without wavering, if you can't, go back to your seat". There were long wooden desks arranged on a terraced platform, the back row for older scholars, the second for those less advanced, the lowest for beginners. In the flat part of each desk a hole was bored to hold the ink horn. The ink was made by the teacher from powder, and kept in a jug which was filled on Monday and emptied back on Friday. Red ink was made from "pigeon berries". A terrestrial and a celestial globe completed the equipment. The teacher had a stand up desk on which were kept the ruler and the cow-hide, which were frequently required for punishment. Discipline was harsh and penalties severe. There were no vacations. School hours were from nine to twelve and from two to five. There was no recess but boys were occasionally allowed to "go out" to play and the teacher called them in by rapping on the window. Each scholar had to provide himself with an English Reader, Murray's Grammar, a Spelling book, a Geography, Daboll's Arithmetic, a slate, goosequills for pens, one-half quire of Fool's cap paper, and a piece of lead for a "plummet" to rule his writing book. No lead pencils were allowed. Ciphering and writing books were made by the teacher from the paper furnished by the pupils and had paper covers. The small room for firewood was used by the monitors, whom the boys tried to bribe by gifts of marbles, candy, etc. not to report their failures to the master. Friday afternoons were given up to "speaking pieces". There was an annual dramatic exhibition for parents and friends, and during the time of preparation of the play discipline was somewhat relaxed; imperfect lessons and even talking on the back seat were winked at. Alexander and the Robber, Tom and Jerry, and Poor Pillicoddy were among the plays given. On one occasion applause was so great that a shower of plaster fell from the dilapidated ceiling. The school was discontinued about 1840. Pupils were gradually withdrawn

as the public school system developed and improved, and as newer teachers less severe opened other schools.

The old Fraser Academy was also continued in the early eighteen hundreds. Judge Joseph Joslin—the boys called him Josey—a former assistant in the school, took it over after Mr. Fraser's retirement. Judge Joslin, like Mr. Tower, was a graduate of Brown University (1814). Under his direction the school maintained its high standing and was considered the leading classical school in the county, giving excellent college preparation. The late Dr. Henry E. Turner, in an address before the Rogers High School Alumni, Dec. 1883 recalled some of his experiences in the school. He described the schoolmaster as possessing amiable manner, excellent methods, and anxious and diligent care for the improvement of his pupils. He characterized Judge Joslin as "suaviter in modo" rather than "fortitior in re". Parents frequently complained that he did not whip enough. To give up the rod would have seemed to undermine authority and influence, but Judge Joslin was more inclined to temporizing measures.

As he was one of the Judges of the Court of Common Pleas in the county the school vacations coincided with the court terms, and in addition included Election, July 4, Thanksgiving, and Christmas. Judge Joslin was devoted to the Classics and it was said that he read Latin and Greek in the original without translation by the hour. One of his customs was to call boys of the same name Primus, Secundus, Tertius according to the length of time in school. Another custom was to refer to the classical authors whom he taught by their full names. A class in Caesar was always a class in Caius Julius and Cicero was always Marcus Tullius. His favorite admonition was "Silence is golden". At one time Judge Joslin was considered the best educated man in Rhode Island and his authority was beyond question. In the Dorr campaign, 1842, he was very outspoken and aggressive and the feeling against him by parents who were "law and order men" was so strong that he left Newport and the School was soon discontinued. Later he returned to Newport and lived here until his death.

The Rodman family furnished three generations of teachers. Clarke Rodman (1749-1838) for more than fifty years had a school on the south west corner of Mary and

Spring streets. He was an old time Quaker in dress and manner, but although a Friend and a non-resitant by profession he never allowed disobedience to go unpunished. His method of hearing spelling lessons was a bit unusual. He would give out the word, then strike his desk violently with a strap, and at that the whole class would scream out the word properly divided into syllables. His ear was so keen that he could detect the slightest mistake, and unless the scholar who was wrong admitted his error, the whole class had to repeat the process until the word was correctly spelled. Passers by, it is said, were often attracted by the strange sounds and stopped to listen. John Rodman, a son (1785-1827), gave all his active life to the instruction of the children of Newport and was a most successful teacher. His school was first on School street and later on the corner of Division and Touro streets (the site of the Jewish Community Center). When he was allowed the use of the Church school house on School street he was expected by the Vestry of Trinity Church to teach the scholars under the Kay donation "the catechism agreeably to the Episcopal mode at least once a week". The Rector and a committee were appointed to visit the school to see that the charity scholars were taught as prescribed by the will of Mr. Kay. In his evening school Mr. Rodman agreed to take carpenter's and mason's work in payment for the teaching of apprentices. Thomas Rodman, a son of John, continued the school after the death of his father and was considered a capable and faithful teacher. He was a man fond of classical studies, with "strong literary tendencies". He wrote prose and poetry which were highly commended. In his later years he became a Swedenborgian clergyman.

Clarke street seems to have been a favorite location for schools, as we read of the Clarke street Academy, Number 5 Clarke street, near Washington Square, opened in 1805 by William Bridges, who had previously had a school on Franklin street. He advertised to teach "English grammar, Writing (both useful and ornamental), Bookkeeping, Geography, Cyphering, Mathematics, Architectural and other drawing, and Land surveying, practically taught with the theodolite, plain table, or chain only." He promised careful and expeditious teaching and the strictest attention to morals. School was in session from nine-thirty to twelve-

thirty and from two-thirty to five-thirty, with a special morning session from six to eight A.M. Girls were received and private rooms provided for them.

In the same year, 1805, Eleazer Trevett opened a school on Clarke street, but soon after moved to the school house on Barney street, a one story building with a belfry, used as the first Catholic church in Newport when the school was discontinued in 1830. This school had the usual hours for the day sessions and a morning school at six A.M. as well. "Scholars were taken as cheap as at any man's school in the State". No classical studies were offered. Mr. Marcy, who assisted Mr. Trevett, later became Governor of New York state.

Mr. Guild, the master of the Mill street public school, left the public school and opened a private school of his own for both sexes. At first in the third story of the Commercial Bank building, it was afterwards moved to Mill street, just above Spring. There on the second floor was the room for the small boys, while downstairs the older boys and girls, separated from each other by black cambric screens, were taught by Mr. Harper, an Englishman, educated at Eton.

Primary schools of the old fashioned type still continued after 1825. One of these was conducted by the Misses Stratton on Thames street, opposite the foot of Mary street (the site of the present Gas Company building). There were three sisters, Miss Sukey, Miss Betsey, and Miss Polly. Miss Sukey really kept the school. The pupils entered through a long entry to a dark, low room in the rear and sat on backless benches during the school session, which lasted from nine to twelve in the morning and from two to five in the afternoon. Miss Sukey was tall, lank, and severe, with a "prunes and prisms" mouth. The children studied Webster's Spelling Book and Colburn's Arithmetic, and were taught plain needle-work, "over and over" sewing, stitching two and two, gathering two and four, and button-holes. Miss Betsey, the family beauty, had the primary department. Miss Polly had charge of the upper part of the house, and a visit to her was considered a reward of good behavior. She told stories of the old families and sang old tunes in a sweet, cracked voice. The three sisters

were a quaint trio; they always seemed "to live in an atmosphere of flagroot and cardamon seeds".

Another trio of sisters, the Misses Godfrey, had a school on the corner of Thames street and Long Wharf, shortly before 1811. Miss Godfrey taught in the Bristol Academy in Taunton, but returned to Newport to help support a widowed mother. Her sisters, Miss Anstiss and Miss Abby, were associated with her in the school. The entrance to the school room was through the family kitchen to an upstairs room, light and pleasant, with four windows. Politeness was the first lesson taught. Instruction was also given in the three R's, Geography, plain and fancy sewing, and embroidery. Every Friday the pupils had the Assembly's catechism and recited pieces of poetry. These catechism lessons and the work in fine embroidery were the strong points of the school.

The school of Miss Liddy and Miss Sukie Coggeshall on Cannon street was also of the old fashioned type—a school room with a stove in the middle of one side and hard, backless benches for seats. The scholars studied reading and spelling, learned to work samplers, and were taught the catechism, Westminster, Shorter, or Church as preferred. There were four terms of thirteen weeks each; no vacations; no recess. The charges were \$1.25 quarterly, with 25 cents extra in the winter for fuel.

Other "Dame schools", in different sections of the town, all the way from the Point district to the lower part of the town, whether held in the parlor, the kitchen, or an unused room, were conducted along the same lines. It was the usual custom for the children to take the teacher a present—an apple, an orange, or a bunch of flowers—about once a week. One mistress required the girls to greet her on entrance with a ceremonious curtsy; another gained popularity by adding to her charges no expense for books, as one leaf of a spelling book was all she needed to teach a child to read. This same mistress used to put red pepper in the children's shoes when their feet were cold. A particularly kind hearted teacher gave the boys and girls fifteen minutes to eat the lunches they had brought from home—lunches which often consisted of cold fried sausages, doughnuts, and a R. I. Greening apple—and offered

as a premium a cup of hot milk porridge to those who had not whispered during the session.

For young ladies, at this time, there were several schools of an exclusive character and advanced standing. Miss Eloise Payne a sister of John Howard Payne, opened her school in 1807. It was one of the best known schools in America and attracted pupils from New York and Boston, who boarded in Miss Payne's family. Miss Payne herself had a charming personality and possessed great intellectual ability. Until her health failed and the school was given up "she exerted a great influence for good in the moral and intellectual culture of girls".

Mrs. Gammell, widow of the Rev. William Gammell, pastor of the Second Baptist church, had a "genteel school", in which all young ladies of the highest families were enrolled.

In the old Hopkins parsonage, the Townsend house on Division street, was the Young Ladies Seminary directed by Miss Goulding, who had taught with Mr. Guild in the Mill street public school. This was considered a very expensive school as the tuition was \$1 a quarter, but it had superior advantages. There were desks with stools in the school room and a Brussels carpet on the floor. It was a special delight of the girls to be allowed to go to the garret to search for the ghost of Dr. Hopkins, which was said to haunt it.

Scores of other schools and schoolmasters of the early days are known by name, but there is little or no information to be obtained about them.

As we review our study of these early schools, certain definite impressions remain in our minds. The schools were at that time usually in charge of men who made teaching a profession. The title Master for a school teacher was as much respected as that of Squire for a lawyer, Doctor for a physician, and Elder for a minister. It was not until sometime later that young men engaged in teaching in preparation for the other vocations. It is also noticeable that, in many cases, no matter how large the number of pupils, one teacher did all the work and relied upon monitors for help. As for the methods of instruction, there was little teaching but much learning and reciting. Punishments were frequent and severe, a cuff on the ear, a spank-

ing with a ruler, or a flogging with a cowhide. The underlying theory seemed to be that no boy was well taught unless well whipped. Politeness was insisted upon, and obedience and respect for elders were inculcated. Although there was emphasis on memory work and a mechanical kind of knowledge, and little was done to encourage the art of thinking, the results in thoroughness and accuracy in the tasks assigned can not be gainsaid.

RUTH B. FRANKLIN.

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WANTON - LYMAN - HAZARD HOUSE

Secretary's Report. Season of 1935

The season at the Wanton-Lyman-Hazard House was an unusually successful one both as to attendance and interest shown. This was due in no small measure to the weekly exhibits which began in July and continued through the season.

A little folder with map by Mr. Norman Isham describing in brief six Historic House Museums in Rhode Island was compiled by Miss Maud L. Stevens from data furnished by them. The Houses participating were the Stephen Hopkins, the Gilbert Stewart, the Perry, the Bishop Berkeley and our own—also the South County Museum near Wickford. We hope by the wide distribution of these folders to obtain additional publicity throughout the State.

The House has been kept open four afternoons a week through July and August and into September with Mrs. George Wilbur and Miss Avis Robinson alternately in charge and Miss Dorothy Hansen at the door. Their faithful, interested service is much appreciated by the Committee.

An innovation this year was the sale of season tickets at \$1.00 which admitted to the House whenever opened. A number availed themselves of the opportunity thus offered.

The garden has been kept in good order through the summer and one hundred privet plants have been set in the maze to replace the box plants which were killed by the severe cold of winter before last. The old Libby bake shop adjoining the garden to the south was torn down leaving an open space instead of the dreary blank wall which used to confront us.

There have been a number of interesting acquisitions detailed descriptions of which will be deferred until later.

Our Committee has been enlarged by the addition of two members—Mrs. Edward A. Sherman and Mrs. Stephen B. Luce. We regret the resignation of Mrs. Robert C. Ebbs.

A brief summary of the exhibits referred to at the beginning of this report follows:

Week-end Exhibits at Wanton-Lyman-Hazard House
Season of 1935

Old Newport Scrap Books and prints and pamphlets shown, respectively, by Miss Ada Crandall and Miss Jeanette Swasey.

China figurines and jewelry, shown by Mrs. William A. Sherman.

Many interesting old pictures collected by Mrs. Lawrence Ebbs.

An old-time Quilting party arranged by Mrs. Phoebe Manchester aided by ladies from the Island. Mrs. Barker and Mrs. Haas demonstrated rug making.

Pictures of Newport houses, drawings and prints, also hand painted trays and furniture. Miss Marjorie Wilson in charge, with other Newport artists.

A Victorian exhibit comprising many and varied articles. Miss Mary Lieber in charge and a group of Newport ladies.

A demonstration of spinning and carding by ladies from Plymouth, Mass. arranged by Mrs. William P. Sheffield.

A showing of many photographs of old Newport houses and furniture by Mrs. W. W. Covell; also articles connected with the Ward family shown by Mrs. Elliott; miniature Colonial furniture shown by Miss Isabel Saxon-MacLean and a demonstration of wood carving by Jonas Bergner.

Costumes of the period 1830-1880 arranged by Miss Catherine Cortazzo; Mrs. DuFais showing silk shawls and jewelry.

Women's ornaments and household utensils from Far East collected and shown by Mrs. George Flagg.

Showing of hooked rugs by Mrs. George Wilbour.

The sincere thanks of the Committee is extended to the ladies arranging these exhibits and to those who assisted them as, also, to the press for their cooperation in keeping the public informed of our plans and accomplishments.

Respectfully submitted,

PEYTON R. HAZARD,

Secretary of the Committee



GIFTS TO MUSEUM

- Draw knife. Gift of James S. Ramlose.
Lock and key from Buttrick house, Meeting st., supposed
to have been on the house when it was the Colony
House Gift of Judge Levy
3 piece blue velvet dress. Worn about 75 years ago by
Mrs. John Alfred Hazard, dau. of Benjamin Hazard.
Gift of Miss Maud L. Stevens
1 long-necked bottle found in an Indian grave near Devil's
Foot, Wickford, R. I.
1 long-necked bottle found near an Indian grave near
Devil's Foot, Wickford, R. I.
Gifts of Dr. Ivan Keith
1 black silk cape.
1 brown silk skirt, worn by Mrs. Marsh, school teacher
Gifts of Miss Elizabeth B. Peckham

GIFTS TO THE LIBRARY

Books and Pamphlets

- Documents illustrative of the history of the Slave Trade to
America. Vol. 4., by Miss Elizabeth Donnan.
Gift of Miss Donnan
The Organs of Trinity Church of Newport, by W. King
Covell. Gift of Mr. Covell
St. Joseph's Church Reference book, 1935.
Gift of John H. Greene, Jr.
Bulletin of the Rhode Island School of Design
Gift of Rhode Island School of Design
Territorial papers of the United States, by Clarence E.
Carter Gift of Department of State, Washington, D. C.
Letter written by Major John Talcott from Mr. Stanton's
at Quonocontaug to Gov. William Leete and the Honor-
able Council of the Colony of Connecticut. Gift of
the Rhode Island Society of Colonial Wars
Bulletin of the Fort Ticonderoga Museum
Gift of The Fort Ticonderoga Museum
The Langworthy Chronicle Gift of William F. Langworthy

Connecticut family records, collected in commemoration
of the 300th anniversary of settlement of Conn.

Gift of The Conn. Chapter of the National Society
Daughters of Founders and Patriots of America, Inc.
Diary of Elbridge Gerry, Jr. Gift of Mrs. Townsend Phillips
Biography of Charles Howland Russell, 1851-1921.

Gift of Charles H. Russell, Jr.
Public Laws of Rhode Island, 1933-34
Rhode Island Acts and Resolves, Jan., 1934

Gifts of Rhode Island State Library
Proceedings of the Wyoming Commemorative Association.
Gift of Wyoming Commemorative Association

EXCHANGE

Bulletin of the Connecticut Historical Society
The Electric Spark From Dr. Bates Sanatorium
Bulletin of the New York Public Library
Bulletin of the New York Historical Society
Redwood Library booklist and annual report
The Mainstay

From The Seamen's Church Institute of Newport
Museum Notes From Buffalo Historical Society
Proceedings of the New Jersey Historical Society
Minnesota History From The Minnesota Historical Society
Bulletin of the Free Public Library of New Bedford, Mass.
Old-Time New England. Bulletin of The Society for the
Preservation of New England Antiquities
Wisconsin Magazine of History

From The State Historical Society of Wisconsin
Rhode Island Historical Society Collections
The New England Historical and Genealogical Register
From The New England Historic Genealogical Society
The Middlesex County Historical Society Annual Report
Reports and Proceedings of The Sons of the Revolution of
the State of New York
Michigan History Magazine

From the Michigan Historical Commission
Bulletin of the Chicago Historical Society
John Carter Brown Library Annual Report
Annual Report of the Providence Public Library
Register of the Kentucky State Historical Society

BOOK FUND

- Your family tree, by D. S. Jordan
The Magazine Antiques
Covered bridges in America, by Rosalie Wells
List of Officials of Connecticut Colony, and New Haven
Colony, 1636-1677, by Donald L. Jacobus
The New England Quarterly
The Arnold Memorial; William Arnold of Providence and
Pawtucket, 1587-1675, by Elisha Arnold
The Puritans and Music in England and New England, by
Percy A. Scholes
Communications on the death of Charles T. Brooks
Soldiers and Sailors of France in the American War for
Independence, 1776-1783, by Capt. Joachim Merlant
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